

Amendments to the Claims

1. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A method for reducing an infarcted area of a cerebral infarction comprising:

administering an agent comprising an HVJ (hemagglutinating virus of Japan)-envelope vector by direct injection into the subarachnoid space of a subject prior to the occurrence of said cerebral infarction, wherein said HVJ-envelope vector comprises[[:]]

an isolated nucleic acid encoding a hepatocyte growth factor operably linked to a promoter, which has been enclosed within an HVJ-envelope and is prepared by mixing an inactivated HVJ which has been inactivated by UV irradiation with the isolated nucleic acid encoding hepatocyte growth factor operably linked to a promoter in the presence of a surfactant;
and

inducing a cerebral infarction in the subject,
~~wherein the HVJ-envelope vector has a diameter less than that of an HVJ liposome;~~
and;

wherein said method results in a reduction of the infarcted area.

7 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the agent is in the form of a tablet, pill, sugar-coated tablet, capsule, liquid gel, ointment, syrup, slurry, or suspension.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the hepatocyte growth factor is a human hepatocyte growth factor.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein direct injection into the subarachnoid space comprises direct injection into a cisternal space.

16. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the UV irradiation is at 99 mJ/cm^2 .

19. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the surfactant is Triton-X.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the surfactant is Triton-X.